

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 NIC-01 DRC-01 /109 W

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R 070300Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9495

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 257

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, BM

SUBJECT: THAI-BURMA BORDER SITREP

FOLLOWING SENT BANGKOK FROM CHIANG MAI DATED JANUARY 4,
BEING RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

RANGOON ALSO PASS MANDALAY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CHIANG MAY 6

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, PFOR, TH, BM

SUBJECT: THAI-BURMA BORDER SITREP

REF: CHIANG MAI 442

CONSULTATE SENIOR FSL TALKED WITH SEVERAL PEOPLE DURING
DECEMBER 26-28 VISIT TO CHIANG RAI AND MAE SAI RE
DEVELOPMENTS ALONG BURMA BORDER:

1. GOVERNOR OF CHIANG RAI REPORTED OVER ONE THOUSAND
LAHU AND OTHER HILL PEOPLES FROM BURMA HAD ARRIVED IN HIS
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PROVINCE FLEEING FROM MISTREATMENT AT HANDS OF GUB TROOPS.

THIS REPORT LARGELY COINCIDES WITH PREVIOUS REPORT WE RECEIVED FROM US MISSIONARY (REF TEL).

2. NAI CHUM, EX KKY LEADER FROM LASHIO AREA, NOW RESIDENT IN TACHILEK, SAID SITUATION IN KENG TUNG STATE DETERIORATING. GUB HOLDS TOWNS, BUT BCP CONTROLS LARGE AREAS OF COUNTRYSIDE AND MELTS INTO TRIBAL VILLAGES WHEN GUB FORCES PASS BY. BCP HAS BETTER WEAPONS AND HAS ESTABLISHED SEVERAL TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR BOTH LOW-LAND AND HILL PEOPLES. BCP ALSO BACKED BY STRONG CONTINGENTS OF REINFORCEMENTS ACROSS BORDER IN CHINA.

3. ACCORDING TO CHUM, THE SITUATION IN BURMA IS COMING DOWN TO A CHOICE OF "ISMS"--WHETHER THE BURMESE OF ALL NATIONALITIES WILL CHOOSE THE SOCIALISM OF NE WIN OF THE COMMUNISM OF THE BCP. HE LABELLED THE MINORITY GROUPS IN REBELLITS AGAINST THE GUB AS MERE "TOY ARMIES" HE SAID THE ONLY GROUP WHICH WORRIES NE WIN IS CHANG CHI FU'S KKY GROUP, WHICH HAS GAINED SOME POLITICAL POWER IN VILLAGES WHERE CHINESE AND YUNNANESE RESIDE. CHUM ALSO SAID SOME SHAN DISSIDENTS WERE GOING OVER TO THE BCP, SINCE BCP CONTROL IN THEIR AREAS INCREASING.

4. ON OPIUM, CHUM SAID NEW CROP DUE BETWEEN JANUARY AND MARCH. THE NEW CHANNEL INTO THAILAND WILL BE FROM THE WEET VIA FANG AND MAE HONG SON, DUE TO BCP CONTROL IN EASTERN SHAN STATE. ALSO MAE SAI TRADERS NERVOUS BECAUSE OF MORE ACTIVE RTG ENFORCEMENT MEASURES. MAE SAI MERCHANTS GENERALLY FINDING BUSINESS WITH BURMA MORE DIFFICULT AND EXPENSIVE, SINCE TACHILEK-KENG TUNG TRAFFIC NOW AT MERCY OF LOOTERS. TRIPS TAKE THREE DAYS AND BUSSES MUST TRAVEL IN GROUPS OF AT LEAST 15 TO GET THROUGH SAFELY. CHUM EXPECTS WESTERN ROUTES FOR OPIUM AND OTHER GOODS WILL WIND UP THROUGH CHIANG DAO AND BE CONTROLLED BY GENERAL LI.

5. COMMENT: CHUM'S REMARKS ABOUT WESTWARD TENDENCY OPIUM ROUTES AND NERVOUSNESS MAE SAI OPIUM TRADE GENERALLY CONFIRMED BY THE OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE
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TO AS.
MONTGOMERY UNQUOTE
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, TH, BM
To: STATE RANGOON
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